

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising to reserve a user's personal time in an electronic schedule of the user, comprising the steps of:
  - recording in an electronic schedule apparatus at least one amount of the personal time during which no bookings by others are allowed; and
  - storing in the electronic schedule apparatus at least one respective interval of time during which the at least one amount of the personal time is to be reserved,
  - receiving at the electronic schedule apparatus an electronic inquiry about availability for a booking;
  - determining or indicating whether the at least one amount of personal time can fit within the at least one respective interval in order to accommodate the booking without causing a scheduling conflict; and
  - rejecting the booking in case of a scheduling conflict between the booking and the personal time,

wherein each of the at least one amount of the personal time is less than the respective interval of time.
2. CANCEL
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~claim 2~~, further comprising ~~the step of~~ providing the user with an option whether or not to accept the booking, in case of a positive determination or indication that the personal time can fit.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~claim 2~~, further comprising ~~the step of~~ automatically making the booking, in case of a positive determination or indication that the personal time can fit.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~claim 2~~, further comprising ~~the step of~~ sending a user availability message in response to the electronic inquiry, in case of a positive determination or indication that the personal time can fit.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~claim 2~~, further comprising ~~the step~~ providing the user with a conflict notification and an option whether or not to accept the booking, in case of a negative determination or indication that the personal time cannot fit.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one respective interval of time represents the user's midday, workday, work week, or any user definable period.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one amount of the personal time is given as a percentage of the respective interval of time.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one amount of the personal time is given as a particular continuous or non-continuous duration.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ reserving at least one fixed block of the personal time.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~claim 2~~, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ comparing a booking type to a type of the personal time, and if consistent then the scheduling conflict will not occur.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~claim 2~~, wherein the electronic inquiry indicates at least one amount of booking time, and at least one respective booking interval that is greater than or equal to the booking time.

13. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the user availability message includes a question as to whether the availability should be confirmed by consulting the user.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein there is a positive determination or indication that the personal time can fit, and the booking is made by booking both the booking time as well as the respective booking interval which is greater than the booking time.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein a further reservation effectively causes a contraction of the booking interval, if the further reservation has additional requirements about when the booking will occur.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ displaying the amount of the personal time and the respective interval of time on a shared or individual calendar.
17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium or media for use in a terminal, the medium or media being encoded with at least part of a data structure for ~~performing the method of claim 1~~;  
recording in an electronic schedule apparatus at least one amount of personal time during which no bookings by others are allowed;  
storing in the electronic schedule apparatus at least one respective interval of time during which the at least one amount of the personal time is to be reserved,  
receiving at the electronic schedule apparatus an electronic inquiry about availability for a booking;  
determining or indicating whether the at least one amount of personal time can fit within the at least one respective interval in order to accommodate the booking without causing a scheduling conflict; and  
rejecting the booking in case of a scheduling conflict between the booking and the personal time.

wherein each of the at least one amount of the personal time is less than the respective interval of time.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A device for reserving a user's personal time in an electronic schedule of the user,~~ An apparatus comprising:

a personal time recorder, ~~responsive to a personal time signal from the user, for recording at least one amount of the personal time;~~ configured to record at least one amount of personal time during which no bookings by others are allowed;

an interval storage unit, ~~responsive to an interval signal from the user, for storing at least one respective interval of time during which the at least one amount of personal time is reserved;~~ configured to store at least one respective interval of time during which the at least one amount of the personal time is to be reserved;

a receiving component, configured to receive an electronic inquiry about availability for a booking;

a transmitting component, configured to reject the booking in case of a scheduling conflict between the booking and the personal time, wherein the at least one amount of personal time cannot fit within the at least one respective interval in order to accommodate the booking without causing a scheduling conflict; and

a user calendar database, ~~for integrating~~ configured to integrate data from the personal time recorder and the interval storage unit into ~~the~~ an electronic schedule,

wherein each of the at least one amount of the personal time is less than the respective interval of time.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~device~~ of claim 18, further comprising an error check unit ~~for notifying~~ configured to notify the user if the amount of the personal time is more than the respective interval, or if the personal time and the respective interval cause any conflict with scheduling information already integrated into the user calendar database.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus device of claim 18, wherein the device is a mobile or fixed terminal ~~that interacts~~ configured to interact directly with the user.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus device of claim 18, wherein the device is a server located remotely from a user terminal.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus device of claim 18, further comprising an inquiry processing unit, responsive to an inquiry signal, ~~for accessing~~ configured to access the user calendar database in order for the device to provide an availability indicator signal indicative of whether the at least one amount of personal time can fit within the at least one respective interval so as to accommodate a booking without any scheduling conflict.

23. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for reserving a user's personal time in an electronic schedule of the user~~, comprising:

a user terminal, responsive to user input, ~~for providing~~ configured to provide a personal time and interval signal indicative of at least one amount of personal time and a respective interval of time during which the at least one amount of personal time is reserved;

a user scheduling component device, responsive to the personal time and interval signal, ~~for providing~~ configured to provide a booking availability signal indicative of whether the at least one amount of personal time can be situated so that a booking fits into ~~the~~ an electronic schedule; and

an inquiring terminal, responsive to the booking availability signal, ~~for indicating~~ configured to indicate to an operator of the inquiring terminal whether the at least one amount of personal time can be situated within the interval so that ~~[[a]]~~ the booking fits into the electronic schedule, and configured to reject the booking in case of a scheduling conflict between the booking and the personal time.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the user scheduling component device also is for performing at least some scheduling for the operator of the inquiring terminal.

25. CANCEL

26. CANCEL

27. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for recording at least one amount of personal time during which no bookings by others are allowed;

means for storing at least one respective interval of time during which the at least one amount of the personal time is to be reserved;

means for receiving an electronic inquiry about availability for a booking;

means for rejecting the booking in case of a scheduling conflict between the booking and the personal time, wherein the at least one amount of personal time cannot fit within the at least one respective interval in order to accommodate the booking without causing a scheduling conflict; and

means for integrating data from the personal time recorder and the interval storage unit into an electronic schedule,

wherein each of the at least one amount of the personal time is less than the respective interval of time.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for notifying a user if the amount of the personal time is more than the respective interval, or if the personal time and the respective interval cause any conflict with scheduling information already integrated into the user calendar database.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the device is a mobile or fixed terminal configured to interact directly with the user.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the device is a server located remotely from a user terminal.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for accessing the user calendar database in order for the device to provide an availability indicator signal indicative of whether the at least one amount of personal time can fit within the at least one respective interval so as to accommodate a booking without any scheduling conflict.